Production of Ammonia and Urea

2272. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the same process and design, the Sindri modernisation plant for fertilizers and Nangal Expansion plant had been producing ammonia and urea satisfactorily whereas in Haldia's case even that could not be achieved;

(b) why defective equipments could not be modified/altered/replaced during the commissioning period of 4 years or thereafter, if it has been ailing due to equipment for plan;

(c) whether Government have fixed responsibility on concerned authorities for such serious lapses due to which even proven process plants like ammonia and urea could not be produced on sustained basis after such a huge investment of public money; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The process for ammonia and urea in the Haldia project is similar to those used in Sindri and Nangal plants. However, the equipments used in Haldia were quite different and were procured under tied credits from different sources due to acute shortage of free foreign exchange. This was not the case in Sindri and Nangal where equipments were procured on an international basis because of World Bank funding.

(b) The Haldia project could not be commissioned successfully due to a variety of reasons; one of them being mismatch of equipments due to the constraints of availing of several lines of credit for procurement of equipments from different sources. Repairs of the faulty equipments—particularly the oxygen compressors—were undertaken under the supervision of even foreign suppliers, however, it could not operate successfully.

(c) and (d) Since the problems of the Haldia project were due to factors beyond the control of any individual or group of individuals, no officials could be held responsible.

Commissioning activities of Haldia Fertilizer Complex

2273. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commissioning activities of 600 crore rupees worth Haldia Fertilizer Complex was stopped in October, 1986;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps were taken by Government to remove the constraints during the commissioning period of about 4 years to ensure sustained production, before the decision to stop commissioning activities was taken.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The commissioning activities had to be stopped due to frequent equipment breakdowns.

(c) Some of the steps taken to remove the constraints during the commissioning period were as follows:—

(i) A 20 MW Gas Turbine was set up to meet the power shortage/power problems.

(ii) The damaged parts of the Oxygen compressors were imported and the compressors were commissioned in the presence of the foreign consultants. The compressors, however, continued to give unsatisfactory performance.